
MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

Thomaston High School
Auditorium
Monday, December 11, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Members:

Rebecca Guay, Chairperson
Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary
David Colavecchio, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent

Roxy Fainer
Maureen McMahon
Jennifer Nolan
Scott Theriault
Frank Treglia

Student Representatives:

Erin Fainer

Naime Gilani

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

1.1. **Chairperson Rebecca Guay** called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1.2. Board members in attendance: **Chairperson Rebecca Guay, Beth Campbell, Heather Patchell, David Colavecchio, Superintendent Francine Coss, Roxy Fainer, Maureen McMahon, Jennifer Nolan, Scott Theriault, and Frank Treglia.**

1.3. Others in attendance: Jonathan Kozlak, Kristin Raymond, Eric Martin, Tanya Galpin, Jen Chasse, Deb DeGennaro, Matt VanOrmer, Nicole Maloid, Joe Fainer, and Kelly Dube.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2.1. **Chairperson Rebecca Guay** led the pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, December 11, 2017 as presented

Roxy Fainer motioned and **Beth Campbell** seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, December 11, 2017 as presented

Discussion: *David Colavecchio* amended the agenda under section 10.15 Personnel to add a letter of resignation, item 10.15.5

Vote: *Motioned carried*

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0

4. Public Participation

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) - Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

Jenn Chase, 88 Edgewood Ave, shared with the Board of Education her disappointment, frustration and sadness with Black Rock School and the District this year due to the lack of communication, miscommunication and staffing.

Deb DeGennaro, 103 Clay Street, shared her concerns regarding the changing of staff in the Pre-K program and expressed that the lack of communication/rapport has had detrimental effects.

Matt VanOrmer, 232 Lynnrich Drive, shared his displeasure with the shifting of the Pre-K program. Mr. VanOrmer would like to see the program go back to what it was in the beginning of the year.

Nicole Maloid, expressed her concerns regarding the Pre-k program. Nicole's son is not handling the transition of the Pre-k program well. Ms. Maloid asked the Board to take a look at the Pre-k program and see what can be done.

Tanya Galpin, Thomaston PTA Co-President, 69 Pleasant View Road, explained to the Board that as the PTA Co-President, she has had concerned parents contacting her this year regarding Black Rock School. Ms. Galpin on behalf of the concerned parents asked the Board to find out what is going on at Black Rock School.

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1.Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 13, 2017

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated November 13, 2017 as presented

Roxy Fainer motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 13, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
6	0	3 David Colavecchio Jennifer Nolan Heather Patchell

6. Presentations:

- 6.1. Legislative Discussion – Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABA
- 6.2. Bullying – Allison Andrade, Victoria Bottass, Jack Brody, Ada Cruz, Michael Duggan, Katelyn Everett, Kaylyn Foss, Paige Frisbie, Joshua Gallo, Alexa Lewis, Alexa Milus, Jameson O’Sullivan, Kaitlyn Root, and Alexa Sanson
- 6.3. District Mission Statement & Thomaston High School Core Values – Heidi Laus & Michelle Dayton

Vote to accept/approve the District Mission Statement & the Thomaston High School Core Values

Beth Campbell motioned and Roxy Fainer seconded to accept/approve the District Mission Statement & the Thomaston High School Core Values

Discussion: None:

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0

7. Recognitions:

- 7.1. December Rotary Student of the Month – Alexa Sanson
- 7.2. Teaching and Learning Spotlight – Kelly Dube

8. Student Representative’s Reports

9. Chairperson’s Report

- 9.1. Education Enrichment Fund Mini Grant Letters
- 9.2. Thank you Letters
 - 9.2.1. Susan Larson
 - 9.2.2. Patricia Lanese
 - 9.2.3. Susan Dalka
 - 9.2.4. Sandra McDonald
- 9.3. Appointment of Board Attorney Bylaw 9125 - Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello P.C. – Kyle McClain

Vote to appoint Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello as the Board of Education Attorney

David Colavecchio motioned and Beth Campbell seconded to *appoint Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello as the Board of Education Attorney*

Discussion: *Attorney Kyle McClain explained that Attorney Nicholas Grello has served Thomaston Public Schools for over twenty-five (25) years and Attorney McClain was been working with Thomaston Public Schools for six (6) years. Attorney Grello and Attorney McClain represent the Board in labor, education law matters, contract negotiations, student matters, residency and other legal matters.*

David Colavecchio *asked if the Board of Education Attorney appointment was put out to bid.*

Superintendent Coss *replied that it was not put out to bid and every two (2) years the Board appoints an attorney. The Board may ask other law firms to submit a bid and make a presentation to the Board. Superintendent Coss explained that the Attorneys moved to a new firm and did not raise the prices and have been very cognizant of the Board's needs.*

David Colavecchio *asked how many law firms do this type of legal work in the state.*

Attorney Kyle McClain replied that there are five (5) or six (6) in the state.

David Colavecchio *stated that one of the biggest complaints in town is the legal fees and that the Board really need to clamp down on the fees in the future.*

Frank Treglia *asked if the Board should get another quote since the people are mentioning it.*

Maureen McMahon *stated that the attorneys have such a good background.*

Superintendent Coss *said that the Board can solicit rates.*

Roxy Fainer *mentioned that she was worked with Attorney Grello and Attorney McClain for eight (8) years and their rates are much lower than all the other law firms and that she recommends staying with them.*

David Colavecchio *said that he does not think that the problem is the rate, but the overall expense.*

Beth Campbell *asked Superintendent Coss if it would be her recommendation to stay with the law firm.*

Superintendent Coss *replied that she would recommend to stay with the law firm that the Board is presently using.*

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

10. Superintendent's Report

- 10.1. Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - Connecticut Writing Portfolio Guides for the Assessment of Writing in Grades K-2
- 10.2. Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - Updates on Educator Evaluation and Support
- 10.3. State Board of Education Memorandum - Changes to the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program
- 10.4. Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - Residential Placements and Noneducational Public Agencies
- 10.5. State Board of Education Memorandum - Residential Placements
- 10.6. State Board of Education Memorandum - Connecticut State Department of Education's Ombudsman
- 10.7. State of Connecticut DMV-Travelers Teen Safe Driving Contest
- 10.8. EdAdvance Letter - Website Link - Foothills Adult Education Program
- 10.9. Waterbury Public Schools - School Hours
- 10.10. Effective School Solutions
 - 10.10.1. Insights, November 2017
 - 10.10.2. Solutions, November 2017
- 10.11. Thomaston Public Schools News for Staff - November 2017
- 10.12. FMLA Requests
- 10.13. Administrator Reports

Vote to accept/approve the Grade 9 English Language Arts Curriculum

Scott Theriault motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Grade 9 English Language Arts Curriculum as presented

Discussion: None:

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

10.14. Enrollment Report

10.15. Personnel

- 10.15.1. Corinne Wong, Retirement, Thomaston Center School, February 1, 2018
- 10.15.2. Laura Miller, Resignation, Curriculum Writer, History/Social Studies Grade 5 Thomaston Public Schools
- 10.15.3. Sharon Bouffard, New Hire, Lunch Monitor, Thomaston Center School
- 10.15.4. Bethany Lahey, New Hire, Long-Term Substitute Teacher Kindergarten, Black Rock School
- 10.15.5. Allison Ghiglia, Resignation, Teacher, Black Rock School

Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Retirements/Resignations as presented

Scott Theriault motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve New Hires/Retirements/Resignation as presented

Discussion: Scott Theriault asked if any of the new hires have anything to do with tonight's public participation.

Superintendent Coss replied no.

Beth Campbell asked if a particular person was in a separate Pre-K program, from the one that was discussed in public participation.

Superintendent Coss said, without speaking about personnel, there are two (2) preschool programs at Black Rock School. There is a Pre-K program that has been in existence for many years, two half-day sessions. There is a full day Pre-k program, which is the one that the Board received the grant for and is brand new this year.

Beth Campbell also asked if Thomaston Public Schools is doing exit interviews on the staff that is resigning.

Superintendent Coss stating that there is a letter and a policy that has a questionnaire that goes out to those who either resign or retire. **Superintendent Coss** also explained that the questionnaire is voluntary.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0

11. Committee Reports

11.1. Budget/Audit Committee

11.1.1. November Business Report

- Legal Fees Thomaston vs WAMOGO
- State Department of Education - 2016-2017 Audit Process for Local and Regional School Districts
- Town of Thomaston Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commissions
- Snow Plow Contract
- Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection - Grant Adjustment Notice
- Kids Wheels

Vote to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Kids Wheels for Special Education transportation services for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023.

11.1.2. November Finance Report

- 2016/2019 Grant Report
- November 2017 Expenditures \$1,070,651.90
- November 2017 Transfers \$5,884.35

Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented

Scott Theriault motioned and **David Colavecchio** seconded to accept/approve the November Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented.

Discussion: Roxy Fainer pointed out that if the Board approves the Business Mangers report as presented, that it includes authorizing **Superintendent Coss** to enter into a contract with Kids Wheels for Special Education transportation services.

Superintendent Coss explained that there were eight (8) companies who bid on the Special Education Transportation. Kids Wheels out of Bristol was the lowest bid and their references were checked.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0

David Colavecchio motioned and **Scott Theriault** seconded to raise the strike price for heating oil to \$1.92 for the 2018-2019 school year.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0

11.2. Policy Committee

11.2.1. Presentations - None.

11.2.2. Action Items - None

11.2.3. Read Items

11.2.3.1. 1st Read Policy Audit Series 7000

11.2.3.2. 2nd Read Policy 6142.10 Health Education Program

11.2.3.3. 2nd Read Audit Series 6000

11.2.4. Discussion Items - None

12. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation at 8:43 p.m.

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session at 9:32 p.m.

14. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned and **Beth Campbell** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
9	0	0